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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 36

November 21, 1942

HAWAII (November 1).--Animal husbandman, working in office of Military Governor, revised prices on imported meat and arrived at new figures for desired reserves of all meats based on new consumption figures. Statistics on local production of beef, pork, poultry, milk, and eggs worked out by quarters for 1943 and submitted to WPB in Washington at their request.

One Army Fort at Honolulu requested assistance in determining adequacy of Army rations. Food value was found to be adequate in all essentials. Demonstrations given for war workers in preparing home-made lunches to take to work. Substantial, nutritious lunch recommended.

War bond sales organized at frozen Japanese banks; \$989,000 worth of bonds sold to 2,528 persons. Posters distributed for "Speak American" campaign. Conferences held with officials on liquidating assets of Japanese-language schools. Problem of evacuating certain Japanese from Territory to mainland discussed with Military Intelligence.

15,000 home gardens planted in Honolulu last spring. Crops specialist is urging families to double that number this fall and suggesting all home gardeners practice succession plantings to provide continuous supply. County farm agents promoting home food production program throughout Territory. Distributed seedlings, assisted in obtaining breeding stock, and conducted demonstrations. Farmers ousted from land for military reasons are assisted in finding other suitable land.

Home agent on Kauai served as instructor for first Red Cross nutrition class. The 24-hour course included food demonstrations, exhibits, and field trips and was of special interest to canteen workers, evacuation food committee members, and homemakers. In East Hawaii, home agent working with nutrition committee as radio chairman and assistant agent as newspaper chairman. Five-minute radio programs on nutrition given twice a week. On Molokai demonstrations given in use of honey as sugar substitute to conserve space on ships carrying supplies there.

Armed forces assisted in various ways. Agents helped in conducting games and singing at USO clubs, gave agricultural and home economics circulars for use of Army mess, and handled orders by men in service for native woven products to use as gifts.

MISSOURI (November 1).-- Poultrymen and county agents find that bottleneck in poultry meat campaign is deficiency in floor space per hen. Average of farms inspected had 30 percent deficiency. Remodeled houses, straw houses, and new houses recommended; 38 new houses went up in October in Henry County. Information on new meat-producing ration, using maximum amounts of wheat and soybean-oil meal, going to farmers.

4-H enrollment up 17 percent over 1942. In 19 counties 4-H boys handling 5,000 Montana yearling ewes in 1942-43 sheep project.

Early frost hit pastures and caused milk production decrease. Timely information from extension workers expected to help step-up production.

Plans of work, procedure, and subject-matter material sent to county agents for use in conducting income-tax schools.

Bollinger County has worked out plan to solve transportation problem. Farm transportation committee, along with committees representing school bus operators, lumber and tie buyers, and livestock truckers, pass on all tire recommendations in their particular fields. Tire-rationing committee depends on recommendations of these committees in making approvals. Livestock truckers have agreed to build concentration pens on all-weather roads at points convenient to farmers. Since 95 percent of all timber and lime trucks are empty on return trip, plan was worked out to ship lime to timber truck unloading points, thus permitting load each way.

County and home demonstration agents serving on all county salvage committees.

Agents helped get combines together to reap soybean crop. Soybean care and storage information put out.

SOUTH DAKOTA (November 1).--State neighborhood leader program committee, before January 1, will prepare and distribute to agents for use with leaders material on hog marketing program, gasoline rationing and transportation, food rationing, poultry housing and management, livestock feeding program, clothing situation, price ceilings and anti-inflation, and county experiences and programs. During October brief publications were distributed on Hog Situation as It Relates to Marketing, Rubber Situation and Farm Truck Registration, and Poultry Housing. Number of counties holding successful training schools for neighborhood leaders in small groups.

Eight district conferences held for county war boards, to discuss assistance to farm truckers in applying for certificates of war necessity, and hog marketing situation. County agents assisted war boards with truck registration 3 days in October. Many were asked to take charge of whole program.

For National Fire Prevention Week, neighborhood leaders, extension leaders, and farm families were supplied, through county extension offices, with printed leaflet, Fires in Farm Buildings.

Extension dairyman selected to head State-wide livestock-feeding campaign. State has largest supply of grain per animal unit in its history. Farmers will be told how to utilize grain and protein supplement to advantage of war effort.

Circular, Tips for Conserving Meat, to be used in share-the-meat program. Better school lunches to improve health stressed at State meeting of parent-teachers association. Exhibits and panel discussion participated in by extension nutritionist and State leader were featured. Home agents assisted in a State 4-H Club health clinic where 170 children were examined by physicians and recommendations made for health improvement.

Circular, Mend and Save for Victory, prepared for State-wide distribution to emphasize need for clothing conservation, gives specific directions for mending various kinds of garments in family wardrobe.

VERMONT (November 11)(Special report on Share-the-Meat),--Conducting intensive share-the-meat campaign in cooperation with State safety council and nutrition committee and OCD representatives. Block leaders being appointed under safety council to inform all people in villages and cities not covered by Neighborhood Victory Committeemen (neighborhood leaders). In rural areas about 1,500 women committeemen under Extension Service direction will carry information to people in face-to-face contacts. Extension agents who serve as secretaries of county nutrition committees arranged for planning and training meetings for all taking part on county level. State home demonstration staff members conduct some of these meetings. Local training meetings for block leaders and neighborhood committeemen will follow.

VIRGINIA (November 1).--During October all extension workers in State attended one of two meetings to discuss extension program for 1943 and how best to carry it to farm people. List of questions sent by director to all agents before meeting stimulated thought and discussion.

Neighborhood leaders distributed farm fire hazards check list. Through school teachers, with endorsement of State superintendent, check list was brought to attention of children, so they could make check in their homes.

Dairy specialists working on farm labor problems. Conferences held with several organizations to find ways of meeting labor shortage.

Agricultural engineering department has instructed all high-school agricultural teachers on methods of conducting machinery repair schools. As of June 1, 4,629 farmers had systematic instruction in school shops, repaired 6,231 machines; estimated increase in value, \$36,000. Home equipment repair clinics being held for professional workers and leaders, who in turn hold community clinics. In one county 186 sewing machines have been repaired and adjusted. In same county home equipment and farm machinery repair clinics will be held jointly on neighborhood basis so farmer and wife can save tires and gasoline.

Records of a home demonstration club in mountainous part of Albemarle County illustrate value of Victory Garden program. In one club 15 women canned 5,280 quarts of fruits and vegetables and had an average of 16 bushels of potatoes per family. Grand prize winner at harvest show entered 53 fresh, canned, or dried products, including herbs, and took 37 blue ribbons. Home agents reports comparable results in 80 other neighborhoods in Albemarle.

The "Share it with your neighbor" attitude has been demonstrated in Fairfax County where the 4-H council owns a pressure cooker. From June to September it was busy day and night, week-ends and holidays, and canned over 1,800 quarts.

"A Wartime Message to Milk Producers" given wide distribution by milk processors and county agents. Cheese-making demonstrations emphasized in home dairy program. Some 200 4-H club members have been trained in milking, through State-wide milking contest. Teams practiced diligently and held local, district, and State contests. State champion milker averaged 6.41 pounds of milk a minute.